



COMMUNIQUE

A thinning operation has been taking place in this dense stand of white fir on the Latour Demonstration State Forest. (For more on Latour see page 9)

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diseased elms this time last year", said Forest Pest Specialist Jesse Rios. As of August 14, 1991 there are 11 counties where the disease has been confirmed: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma, and Los Angeles.

Latour Demonstration State Forest

by Tracy Rogers, student assistant

The following is the fifth and final in a series of articles that have introduced you to CDF's own State Forests.

In response to a perceived decline in old-growth and inadequate management of second growth, it was determined by the state in 1947 that state-owned forests should be established in order to demonstrate economical forest management.

Now that it's 1991, this plan has been in effect for over 40 years and a second growth has been established. The forests that have been authorized for second growth purposes are doing much more than that. There are currently eight "demonstration state forests" managed by CDF. Each forest has been established to care for the major timber types in that area. Five of the forests are commercial timberland areas used for timber production, recreation and demonstration of good forest management practices. The other three were acquired as gifts and are and are primarily used for administrative sites and public recreation. They are Las Posadas in Napa County; Ellen Pickett in Trinity County; and Mount Zion in Amador County.

Forty-five miles east of Redding at the southern tip of the Cascade Mountain Range in Shasta County lies Latour State Forest. Purchased by the state in 1946, Latour was the first state forest in California, and is the second largest, boasting 9,033 acres.

Latour is made-up primarily of True Fir trees and according to Forester II Dave McNamara of the Shasta-Trinity Ranger Unit, the emphasis at the forest is on logging. McNamara, who is also the forest manager at Latour, explained that every other year the forest goes through a process called "selection logging" in which individual trees are

selected and cut. During this time an average of three million board feet of lumber will be logged and the wood used in construction. The forest is accessible to logging companies from mid May to the first part of November. After this time access is usually blocked by snow.

Because Latour is primarily used for logging purposes, the forest does not see a large number of campers. It does, however, offer free camping and provides seven camping areas for its visitors. Unfortunately, these camping areas do not yet contain any toilet facilities. According to McNamara, toilet facilities have been purchased and are expected to be finished by next year. For now, however, McNamara says that most of Latour's visitors are single-day or weekend guests.

Aside from the logging and camping, Latour State Forest also allows hunting. Most of the time the hunted are deer and wild turkeys. However, there have been instances of tree (grey) squirrels, quail and even bears being hunted. Other animal life inhabiting Latour include mountain lions, blue grouse, coyotes and bob cats.

It is because of the logging and the vast number of animal life inhabiting Latour that the forest depends so heavily on natural regeneration of the trees and vegetation. It is for this reason that they practice "selection logging." Latour also employs four people to help ensure that things run smoothly at the forest. Including McNamara, Latour has two full-time employees and one seasonal employee.

For more information on Latour Demonstration State Forest please call (916) 225-2418.



A young bear cub "poses" for a photo on Latour.